

REMARKS

Applicant and the examiner seem to be at loggerheads as to the scope of the teaching of the Osborne et al. reference. At page 9 of the Examiner's analysis of Osborne it is noted:

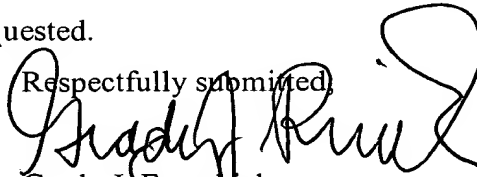
"At no time does the Osborne patent teach that the helically oriented fibers are *interlaced* or *wound in and out* with respect to each other...." (emphasis in original)

In fact that observation is completely untrue. At the top of page 4 it is noted in Osborne (U.S. 5,251,640):

"Several other variations to the composite wire guide shaft of the present invention include but are not limited to winding the fibers in layers, including longitudinally parallel fibers outside the helically wound fibers or possibly interweaving the cross-wound fibers in some fashion."

Moreover, the Examiner is asked to examine FIG. 1 of the '640 Osborne patent. FIG. 1 clearly shows interwound or "woven" fibers 13 and 14 as being a critical component of the guide wire disclosed. In every embodiment disclosed in the '640 first and second sets of fibers are required. At least the second set of fibers, are clearly woven as is shown in FIG. 1. Further, it is suggested that the first set of wires i.e. the "wire guide shaft" from the excerpt above also can be woven. It does not seem reasonable for the disclosure to indicate the possibility of "interweaving the cross-wound fibers" could possibly be a non-woven structure. Having shown that the Osborne primary reference does not either anticipate, or render obvious, the presently-claimed invention, it is believed that all rejections based in part thereon should be withdrawn.

It is noted at pages 5 and 6 of the 09/09/2004 Office Action the suggestion that changing a transitional phrase comprising "to some more restrictive phrase" could eliminate the possibility that Osborne would render obvious the "randomly-disposed core fibers" as noted in claims 19 and 20. The undersigned attorney would like to discuss this proposal with the Examiner as part of reaching agreement as to all matters outstanding in this application. A telephonic interview therefore is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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